

DRAFT**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A hearing enhancement system for a user, comprising:
 - an interface unit that has a directional speaker and a microphone;
 - wherein
 - the microphone receives input audio signals, which are transformed into ultrasonic signals;
 - the speaker transmits the ultrasonic signals;
 - at least a portion of the ultrasonic signals is transformed into output audio signals in air;
 - and
 - a portion of the ~~input~~ output audio signals is amplified more than another portion to enhance the hearing of the user, and
 - wherein the directional speaker is configured to be spaced apart from at least one of the ears of the user so that at least a portion of the ultrasonic signals is transformed into output audio signals outside the at least one of the ears of the user, to be received by the at least one of the ears of the user.
2. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the amplification is frequency dependent.
3. (Previously presented) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 2 wherein at least a portion of the audio frequencies that is higher in frequency than another portion of the audio frequencies receives greater amplification.
4. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 2 wherein certain frequencies of the input audio signals are not amplified.

DRAFT

5. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 2 wherein the amplification depends on at least one characteristic of the hearing of the user.
6. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 5,
wherein the at least one characteristic of the hearing of the user is determined through calibrating the hearing of the user,
wherein the system is configured to allow the amplification to be changed as a function of frequency, and
wherein the user can change the amplification in view of the calibration results.
7. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the system can be de-activated by the user.
8. (Previously presented) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein when the system is not activated, the system can be activated depending on at least one word spoken by the user.
9. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1
wherein the input audio signals have a power level, and
wherein depending on the power level of the input audio signals, the system can be in a standby mode.
10. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1
wherein the input audio signals have an average power level, and
wherein depending on the average power level of the input audio signals, the system can be in a standby mode.
11. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the microphone is a directional microphone.

DRAFT

12. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1
wherein the input audio signals have an average power level, and
wherein the amplification is reduced or limited if the average power level of the
input audio signals is higher than a preset threshold.
13. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the system
further includes a rechargeable battery.
14. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the system
also can function as a phone.
15. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1,
wherein the system includes more than one directional speaker, and
wherein the phases of the ultrasonic signals driving at least two of the speakers
differ by a preset value, and
wherein the direction of the output audio signals can be changed by changing the
preset value.
16. (Previously presented) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein
the system can also access audio signals from another instrument through a wire or a
wireless connection.
17. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16 wherein the another
instrument is a portable instrument.
18. (Previously presented) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16 wherein
the another instrument is an entertainment unit.
19. (Previously presented) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16 wherein
the another instrument is a phone.

DRAFT

20. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16,
wherein the another instrument is ~~related to~~ a microphone at an event, and
wherein audio signals are accessed from another instrument through a wireless
connection.
21. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16,
wherein the another instrument is ~~related to~~ a speaker at an event, and
wherein audio signals are accessed from another instrument through a wireless
connection.
22. (Previously presented) A hearing enhancement system for a user, comprising:
a directional speaker;
a microphone; and
a computing unit operatively coupled to the directional speaker and the
microphone,
wherein the microphone receives input audio signals, ~~and the computing unit~~
~~modifies the input audio signals at least by modifying certain frequencies differently than~~
~~other frequencies to enhance the ability of the user to hear the input audio signals, and~~
~~provides the modified signals to the directional speaker,~~
wherein the directional speaker outputs ultrasonic waves based on the ~~modified~~
input audio signals,
wherein the directional speaker is configured to be spaced apart from at least one
of the ears of the user so that at least a portion of the ultrasonic signals is transformed into
output audio signals outside the at least one of the ears of the user, to be received by the
at least one of the ears of the user, and
wherein the computing unit is configured to modify the output audio signals at
least by modifying certain frequencies differently than other frequencies to enhance the
hearing of the user.
23. (Cancelled)

DRAFT

24. (Previously presented) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22,
wherein the speaker is attachable to the clothing worn by the user, and
wherein the directional speaker can direct the ultrasonic waves towards at least
one ear of the user from the worn position of the directional speaker.
25. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22, wherein the
computing unit is integral with the directional speaker.
26. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22, wherein the
computing unit is separate from the directional speaker but operatively couples with the
directional speaker over a wireless link.
27. (Previously presented) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22,
wherein the computing unit has a reduced power mode and a normal power mode, and
wherein the computing unit can be automatically switched between the power modes
based on at least one characteristic of the input audio signals, thereby reducing power
consumption by the computing unit.
28. (New) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1,
wherein the amplification is frequency dependent,
wherein the amplification depends on at least one characteristic of the hearing of
the user,
wherein the at least one characteristic of the hearing of the user is determined
through calibrating the hearing of the user,
wherein the system is configured to allow the amplification to be changed as a
function of frequency,
wherein the system can be in a standby mode to reduce power consumption by the
system,
wherein the system further includes a rechargeable battery, and
wherein the system also can function as a phone.